

# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

**Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.**

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number <span style="float: right;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> None</span> a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated  5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) ( <i>if applicable</i> )	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden ( <i>in thousands of dollars</i> ) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting ( <i>check all that apply</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)  Name: _____ Phone: _____

## 19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

**NOTE:** The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
  - (i) Why the information is being collected;
  - (ii) Use of information;
  - (iii) Burden estimate;
  - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
  - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
  - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**SUPPORT STATEMENT**  
**Federal Fisheries Logbooks**  
**Southeast Region Family of Forms**  
**OMB Number 00648-0016**

Justification

1. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been delegated the authority and responsibility for stewardship of the marine resources for the Nation. This authority was first granted in the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) of 1976. The re-authorization of the MFCMA in 1996 continued and in some ways extended this authority.

Under this authority the Secretary of Commerce, and his designee the NMFS, has promulgated separate rules that require specific types of record keeping and data submissions. These data collection/submission regulations are intended to provide reliable and accurate information that supports scientifically viable management actions from the fishing industry and communities to achieve the stewardship responsibilities.

Currently, there are 9 logbook programs or forms that are included in this family of forms. However, 3 of these programs are currently inactive and no reporting burden is associated with them. These 3 programs are; (1) the logbooks for charter boats, (2) logbook reporting for shrimp fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and (3) reporting of octocoral harvest. It should also be noted that several of the forms that were used in 1997 have been consolidated with other forms. The South Atlantic snapper grouper, the shark, the migratory coastal pelagic and the Gulf reef fish have been combined into a single form. The swordfish and tunas have been combined into a single form.

The authority to collect data for these programs is in 50 CFR 622.5, Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf and South Atlantic. The fisheries for which there are active data collection programs are:

- For-hire headboat
- Gulf of Mexico reef fish
- South Atlantic snapper-grouper
- Wreckfish
- Golden crab
- Migratory coastal pelagic (mackerel)
- Aquacultured live rock
- Colombian Treaty Waters

The fisheries for which the data collection is inactive are:

- Gulf of Mexico shrimp
- For-hire charter boats
- Octocoral harvest

A brief descriptions of logbook programs that currently have active data reporting follows.

### For-Hire Headboats

Fishing from headboats is considered recreational fishing; however, because this type of fishing represents a relatively small, but specialized sector of recreational fishing, it is not included in the NMFS' Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey. To collect catch and effort data from this fishery, a separate logbook program has been established in the Southeast Region. Total catch and participation estimates for all headboat fishing activity are made from the headboat logbook program. The need for good quality, representative CPUE and species composition data from this sector of the recreational fishery is the primary reason that this program was implemented.

### Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish

This program was initiated in April 1990, to provide critically needed data on individual fishing trips for species in this important management unit. The diversity of gear in this fishery (i.e., longline, hook and line, traps, spears, and buoy) and the variety of species increases the need to have detailed catch per unit effort (CPUE) and species composition data. Furthermore, because species in this management unit are not migratory, it is important that detailed information on the CPUE and species composition are collected by area so assessments can be made for major reef complexes to determine how fishing effort is affecting these complexes over time.

This logbook program only includes fishermen that sell their catches to established seafood dealers, i.e., commercial fishermen. Consequently, logbooks are not required for headboat or charter boats when they operate in a for-hire mode.

### South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper

This program was initiated in January 1992. The purpose of this program, like the Gulf reef fish program, is to collect data on fishing effort, catch per unit effort and species composition. The snapper-grouper fishery is similar to the fishery for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico; consequently the logbook forms that are used for the two fisheries are the same.

### Coastal Migratory Pelagic (Mackerels)

This purpose of this logbook program is to collect data on catch, effort and area for this fishery in both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. The Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have requested that this logbook program be initiated. The assessments for king and Spanish mackerel will be improved with the availability of this CPUE data. Because CPUE and gear for king and Spanish mackerel fishing are similar to that for reef fishes, the same logbook forms are used.

### Wreckfish

The wreckfish fishery is part of the South Atlantic snapper-group management unit, but because there were concerns about the status of the wreckfish stock, specific management measures were implemented to collect data from vessels that harvest this species. Although separate logbooks are used for this fishery, they require the basic CPUE and fishing location data as the other logbooks in the family. The reason for using different logbooks is to make it simpler for the fishermen to provide the required information.

### Golden Crab

Fisheries for this species of deep water crabs occur in both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. Logbook reporting requirements have been implemented at the request of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council under advice from their Advisory Panel. This logbook program is designed to collect the quantity of golden crab that are caught in designated areas. The form is distinct from the other forms under Part 622 because lines of traps are used to catch these species and the amount of catch needs to be reported by line instead of an entire trip.

### Colombian Treaty Waters

This Federal reporting requirement is part of the negotiated treaty with Colombian Government that permit U.S. vessel to fish in Colombian waters. Under that agreement, U.S. fishermen are required to submit a logbook for every trip that they make in Colombian waters to the NMFS. The NMFS forwards those forms to the Colombian Government for their use in monitoring the fishing activity in their waters.

### Aquacultured Live Rock

The harvest of natural live rocks is prohibited under Federal statute. However, live rock can be harvested when new rocks are deposited for the specific purpose of cultivating growth for future harvest and sale. The harvest of aquacultured live rock has to be reported to the State of Florida and the NMFS. The NMFS receives the harvest data from the state of Florida. However, the NMFS does require a report from harvesters with a Federal permit that provides the location and quantity of rock deposited for aquaculture. This deposition form is the form included in the logbook family of forms.

### For-Hire Charter Boats

This program was implemented to supplement data that are collected in the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Marine Recreational Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Data on total catch and number of participants are collected by the MRFSS, whereas data on fishing effort and catch per unit effort (CPUE) are collected by the logbooks submitted by charter boat captains. Because recreational anglers catch large amounts of species in the coastal pelagic and reef fish management units, it is critical that effort and CPUE data be provided in order for a comprehensive stock assessment to be prepared. It should also be noted that CPUE data for this sector of the fishery has been shown to provide an excellent index of abundance for coastal pelagic species, and has been an integral part of the annual stock assessments for these species.

Recently the MRFSS has undertaken a specific prototype study to determine a method of data collection for this sector of the recreational fishery. Consequently, the charter boat logbook program managed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center has been discontinued.

### Octocoral

Data on the total harvest of octocorals is a fundamental requirement that is essential to manage these living marine resources. Under Federal statute, fishermen (harvesters) with Federal coral permits are required to submit quarterly reports (logbooks) that provide the type and quantity of octocoral harvested. The State of Florida has also

promulgated regulations that require dealers (i.e., those that purchase the corals) to report the quantity and type of coral harvested. To avoid duplication, harvesters with a Federal permit that harvest and report their take to the State of Florida do not have to submit a Federal logbook. The State of Florida provides these data to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### Gulf of Mexico Shrimp

Reporting requirements provide the Science and Research Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center with the authority to require logbooks for trips where shrimp are caught in the Gulf of Mexico. Because data are available from other data collection sources, no shrimp fishermen are currently being selected to submit logbooks for shrimp fishing. However, if management conditions change in the future, it may be necessary to utilize these reporting requirements.

Of the 11 fisheries described above, the data collection activities for last 3 are not currently operational. For the 8 active data collection programs, there are 6 separate reporting forms. As stated above, the logbook form is the same for the Gulf of Mexico reef fish, the South Atlantic snapper-grouper, and the migratory coastal pelagic (mackerels). The estimated burden hours for this family of forms are calculated for the individual forms and not the fisheries. The burden hours are presented in the response to item #12 below.

2. The information requested on logbooks is used by various offices of NMFS, Regional Fishery Management Council staff, the U.S. Coast Guard and state fishery agencies under contract to NMFS to develop, implement and monitor fishery management strategies. Analyzes and summarizations of logbook data are used by NMFS, the Regional Councils, the Departments of State and Commerce, OMB, the fishing industry, Congressional staff and the public to answer questions about the nature of our fisheries resources. Information on endangered species or marine mammals and their incidental take is requested in those fisheries where such interaction are likely to occur. These data will help NMFS meet its requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. If reports of such occurrences are common, NMFS can proceed to minimize the harvest of such species through the promulgation of regulations.

These data serve as input for a variety of uses, such as: biological analyzes and stock assessments; E.O. 12291 regulatory impact analyzes; quota and allocation selections and monitoring; economic profitability profiles; trade and import tariff decisions; allocations of grant funds among states; identify ecological interactions among species. The NMFS would be unable to fulfill the majority of its scientific research and fishery management missions without these data.

The logbook family of forms has evolved as a means of collecting data from specific user groups within fisheries that are managed under Federally implemented fishery management plans (FMP). The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) has the responsibility for both preparation of stock assessments (estimation of maximum sustainable yield and/or other indexes of biomass) and collection of the scientific data that are required to perform the assessments. A secondary data collection responsibility is to provide information that is necessary to routinely monitor and evaluate the conditions in the fisheries under Federal management.

Similar data elements are required for most of the logbooks in this family, although a few variables may be specific to one fishery or type of management technique controlling harvest.

a) Information such as name and address of operator and owner is used to identify the respondent and the legal entity controlling the fishing practices of the vessel. This latter requirement is essential in monitoring the compliance of the reporting requirement, where revocation of the operators permit or fines are involved. Because many vessels are owned by corporations, identification of owner and operator on the logbook form allows NMFS to sanction the company as well as the individual vessel operator as necessary or required by the regulations. Information on the permit is obviously essential to monitoring reporting compliance.

b) Data on date of departure, date returned, days fished, duration of tows or sets, units of gear and mesh size used are all designed to quantify actual fishing effort. Fishing effort is needed to standardize differences in productivity among vessels or fishing grounds by establishing a rate catch per unit time. These data allow comparisons over time, area and gear type of catches made by a variety of harvesters. Comparisons of catch and catch per unit effort (CPUE) over time are significant indicators of the biological status of the fisheries. Declining CPUE, especially if data on fishing effort are sufficiently detailed to adjust for changes in effort, can provide critical information on the status of the stock, i.e., that the level of harvest is beyond the level that is sustainable by growth and reproduction of the stock.

c) Area fished, loran bearing, depth of fishing, latitude and longitude are variables that are used to establish fishing locations. This information can be related to other oceanographic and biological information to predict species availability and likely future abundance. For example, location of capture can be correlated to sea surface temperature measured by satellite to predict possible migration patterns. In addition, area or zone fished is used to cross reference locations where fishing is not permissible (such as closed spawning areas).

d) Species information such as landings, discards and sizes of fish is the basic measure of fishing success, from which fishermen, biologists and economists infer conclusions about the status of the fishery. Landings information is also needed because controlling the quantity of fish harvested is often the means for ensuring that harvests can be replenished over time.

e) Name of buyer, dealer number and port of landing are data used to cross reference the quantity of fish caught with the quantity that is handled (process) by the market. The important cross reference is between the total amount of catch, and the respective sizes of individual fish. It would be impossible for fishermen to measure individual fish as they are being caught and stored on board the vessels. However, many species of fish, especially the large pelagic species, are individually weighted by the dealers and these weights are recorded as part of the sales transactions. By knowing the dealer that purchased the fish, cross references can be made between data submitted by the dealers and the data from the logbooks. Combining the data in this manner provides greater precision on the CPUE estimates and more information on the sizes of catches by location and time.

3. No improved information technology has been identified as a practical means for reducing the burden on the public.

4. The Magnuson Act's operational guidelines require each FMP to evaluate existing state and federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Each Fishery Management Council membership is comprised of state and federal officials responsible for resource management in their area. These two circumstances identify other collections that may be gathering the same or similar information. In addition, each FMP

undergoes extensive public comment periods where potential applicants review the proposed permit application requirements. Therefore, NMFS is confident it is aware of similar collections if they exist.

Detailed information on CPUE, effort and species composition by gear and area are not available from other sources. Some states, notably Florida and North Carolina, have programs to collect landings by species for individual fishing trips, but these programs do not include the detailed information on effort, location and effort that are required in the reporting requirements for this OMB request. Furthermore, these programs collect the data from seafood processors, and not fishermen, whereas, logbooks are submitted by the fishermen.

5. Because all applicants are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the analytical needs of the SEFSC's assessment scientists are requested from all applicants.

6. The consequence of not having detailed CPUE and species composition data is to increase the uncertainty associated with the stock assessments that are the basis for sound management decisions. As with any statistical analysis, the confidence limits (bands) for specific points will be large if the variability in the data cannot be accounted for. With the availability of the logbook data the sample size for the various stratifications of gear and area are sufficiently large to reduce the uncertainty in the data to acceptable levels.

The logbook data also provide critical information on the type and amount of effort. Without these data, there is no way of knowing whether changes in total catch are due to changes in fishing effort or changes in the abundance of the resource, or both.

For the Colombian catch and effort program, the United States cannot meet its international commitments without the data from this program.

7. The reporting regulations require fishermen to submit completed logbooks for all trips or sets for several reasons. First, it is critical that these data be timely. For fisheries that are significantly overfished, it is important to monitor changes in fishing mortality. Secondly, the reissuance of permits are predicated on compliance with the reporting requirements, and timely data are needed to determine whether fishermen are complying on a regular basis. Thirdly, quality control of the logbook data is better when the review and verification process is closer to the actual time that fishing occurred.

8. Because these data collection programs are part of fishery management plans, all aspects of the programs have been reviewed by both statistical and constituent advisory committees. Furthermore, comments and suggestions from fishermen, that are required to report, are routinely submitted and these are reviewed and considered. Experience with the various programs, some of which have been operating since 1981, provides a continual feedback mechanism to NMFS on issues and concerns to the applicants. There are no major problems that have not been resolved.

9. There are no payments or other remunerations to respondents.

10. All data that are submitted to the SEFSC are treated in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidential Fisheries Statistics. In addition, logbook data are considered to be in an entrepreneurial capacity and are thus exempt from the Privacy Act concerns.

11. No questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

12. To comply with the reporting requirements, fishermen are required to submit either a fishing log, where they report the catch, effort and area data, or a no-fishing log, where they state that they did not fish during the specified calendar month. The number of respondents, the estimated number of responses, the time per response and the total burden for fishing and no-fishing forms for each of the 9 fisheries are as follows:

Fishery	No. Of Resp't	Number of responses, hr/response, total time (hours)						Total Burden (Hours)
		Fishing	hr/re-sponse	Total Time	No-fishing	hr/re-sponse	Total Time	
Headboat	163	18,972	0.200	3,794	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,794
Golden Crab	14	116	0.167	19	77	0.03	2	21
Reef fish - mackerel	3,697	35,591	0.167	5,944	28,423	0.03	853	6,797
Wreckfish	11	33	0.167	6	62	0.03	2	8
Colombian log	11	9	0.300	3	81	0.03	2	5
Live rock	29	55	0.250	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	14
Gulf Shrimp	0							0
Charter boat	0							0
Octocoral	0							0
Total	3,925	54,776		9,780	28,643		859	10,639

The annual estimated burden for this family of forms has decreased by 10,618 hours over the estimated amount for the 1997 submission.

13. The total burden to the public for the fisheries included by this family of forms is 10,639 hours. No dollar cost should be required because all forms are provided, and pre-addressed, postage paid envelopes are provided for the responses.

14. The annual cost to the Federal government is calculated from estimates of the total cost per form to process the logbook data. These estimates were made in the original SF-83 submissions, and include printing costs, labor for sight review and data entry, form development, and program management costs. Total cost to the Federal government is estimated to be \$347.0 thousand per year.

15. There are several reasons for the decrease in the reporting burden estimated in this submission compared to the 1997 submission. First, the estimate of the burden due to the implementation of the mackerel reporting requirements was overstated. Many of the fishermen with mackerel vessel permits also had other permits and were already reporting their fishing activity. Secondly, the reporting activities for the Highly Migratory Species, which includes the Atlantic swordfish, the Atlantic shark and the Atlantic tuna fisheries are no longer included in this family of forms. Thirdly, the for-hire charter logbook program, the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and the octocoral program do not require and reporting.

16. The results from this collection are not planned for statistical publication but will be used as empirical input for scientific purposes the SEFC's annual stock assessment reports and released to the public only in summary or tabular form.

17. The OMB number will be displayed.

18. There are no exemptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of OMB 83-I.

B. The collection does not employ statistical methods at present.